Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03907 141241Z ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 MCT-01 IO-13 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2756

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 3907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: SISON'S WIFE PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO SUBVERSION CHARGE

REF: 77 MANILA 18396

1. JULIET DE LIMA SISON, COMMUNIST PARTY (CPP/ML) CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND WIFE OF PARTY CHAIRMAN JOSE MARIA SISON, PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO SUBVERSION CHARGES MARCH 7 IN ARRAIGNMENT HEARINGS BEFORE MILITARY COMMISSION 6. SHE AND 55 OTHERS, ACCORDING TO DAILY EXPRESS, ARE CHARGED WITH PARTICIPATING IN CCP/ML AND NEW PEOPLES ARMY (NPA) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING VIOLENT RALLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN 1971 AND 1972. ALL OF THE OTHER ACCUSED (EXCEPT THOSE BEING TRIED IN ABSENTIA) HAVE ALSO PLEADED NOT GUILTY.

2. MRS. SISON HAD REPEATEDLY ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT OF HER ARRAIGNMENT UNTIL SHE COULD OBTAIN EX-SEN. JOSE DIOKNO AS HER LAWYER, ACCORDING TO DAILY EXPRESS. AT THE MARCH 7 HEARING JOSE JUSTIANO OF DIOKNO'S LAW OFFICE WAS NAMED HER COUNSEL ONLY FOR THAT DAY. THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL THEN DIRECTED THE PROSECUTION TO GRANT HER ACCESS TO DIOKNO. CHURCH ACTIVIST SOURCES AT THE TASK FORCE FOR DETAINEES TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 9 THAT THE MILITARY HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED HER REQUESTS TO CONTACT DIOKNO SINCE HER ARREST LAST NOVEMBER. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MANILA 03907 141241Z

3. MRS. SISON IS ALSO A RESPONDENT, ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND AND 91 OTHERS, IN A REBELLION TRIAL BEFORE MILITARY COMMISSION 1. THIS CASE RELATES TO ALLEGED ATTEMPTED ARMS SMUGGLING BY THE CPP/ML ON THE M/V KARAGATAN IN 1971 AND THE M/V DONA SNDREA IN 1974 (77 MANILA 19616). NEWSOM

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